

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1, 8, 20, 21, 28, 35, 38-41, and 60 have been amended, no new claims have been added, and claims 34, 48, and 50 have been canceled

1. (currently amended) A method in a computer system for translating medical test results into plain language, comprising the steps of:

receiving a medical test result for a type of medical test;

prior to interpreting the medical test result to provide a plain language explanation for the medical test result, making a threshold determination whether ~~determining~~ if the medical test result will initially be automatically interpreted by the computer system independent of clinician input or ~~if~~ the medical test result will be interpreted using clinician input without an initial automatic interpretation by the computer system;

if the medical test result will initially be automatically interpreted independent of clinician input, identifying at least one template associated with the type of medical test;

selecting a template matching the medical test result; and

outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying at least one template associated with the type of medical test comprises identifying a set of a plurality of templates associated with the type of medical test.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a range of medical test result values.

4. (original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the selecting step includes determining a template corresponding to the range encompassing the medical test result.

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a medical test result value.

6. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the selecting step includes determining a template corresponding to the medical test result value.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

if the medical test result will be interpreted using clinician input, distributing the medical test result to the clinician without initially automatically interpreting the medical test result by the computer system, and wherein the selecting step includes receiving clinician input, the input matching the medical test result to a template.

9. (original) The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of recording the input of the clinician.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving patient information and comparing the patient information against a list of patients having authorization to receive the medical test result.

11. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selected template includes at least one placeholder.

12. (original) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of inserting data into the selected template at the placeholder.

13. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the data is a numerical value for the medical test result.

14. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether the selected template can be sent directly to a patient.

15. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the outputting includes sending a message to a storage unit and adapting the selected template for viewing via a web browser.

16. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is textual.

17. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is audible.

18. (original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by an automated phone system.

19. (original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by a wireless device.

20. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of distributing the medical test result[[s]] and the selected template to a physician for review prior to the step of outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

21. (currently amended) A computer system for translating medical test results into plain language, comprising:

a receiving component that receives a medical test result for a type of medical test for a patient;

~~a determining component that determines if the medical test result will be automatically interpreted independent of clinician input or if the medical test result will be interpreted using clinician input;~~

an identifying component that identifies at least one template associated with the type of medical test ~~if the medical test result will be automatically interpreted independent of clinician input;~~

a determining component that determines whether the medical test result is a normal test result appropriate for automated delivery to the patient by the computer system or an abnormal test result inappropriate for automated delivery to the patient by the computer system;

a selecting component that selects a template matching the medical test result if the medical test result is determined to be a normal test result; ~~and~~

an outputting component that outputs a plain language explanation based on the selected template if the medical test result is determined to be a normal test result

and outputs an abnormal indication to a clinician for manual delivery of the medical test result to the patient if the medical test result is determined to be abnormal; and[[.]]

a distribution component that automatically distributes the plain language explanation to the patient if the medical test result is determined to be a normal test result.

22. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the identifying component identifies a set of a plurality of templates associated with the type of medical test.

23. (original) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a range of medical test result values.

24. (original) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the selecting component includes a determining component that determines a template corresponding to the range encompassing the medical test result.

25. (original) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a medical test result value.

26. (original) The system in claim 25, wherein the selecting component includes an identifying component that identifies the template corresponding to the medical test result value.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

a medical test result distributing component for distributing the medical test result to a clinician if the medical test result will be interpreted using clinician input, and wherein the selecting component receives input from a clinician, the input matching the medical test result to a template.

29. (original) The system as recited in claim 28, further comprising a recording component that records the input of the clinician.

30. (original) The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising a receiving component that receives patient information and a comparing component that compares the patient information against a list of patients having authorization to receive the medical test result.

31. (original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the selected template includes at least one placeholder.

32. (original) The system as recited in claim 31, further comprising an inserting component that inserts data into the selected template at the placeholder.

33. (original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the data is a numerical value for the medical test result.

34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the ~~outputting~~ distribution component includes a sending component that sends a message to a storage unit and an adapting component that adapts the selected template to a format viewable via a web browser.

36. (original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is textual.

37. (original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is audible.

38. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 37, wherein the distribution component comprises ~~further comprising~~ an automated phone system that delivers the plain language explanation.

39. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the distribution component comprises ~~further comprising~~ a wireless device that delivers the plain language explanation.

40. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising a distributing component for distributing the medical test result[[s]] and the selected template to a physician for review before the outputting component outputs a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

41. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to translate medical test results into plain language, by:

receiving a medical test result for a type of medical test;

determining the type of medical test for the medical test result is a type that may be interpreted using the computer system by comparing the type of medical test for the medical test result to a list of medical test types capable of being interpreted using the computer system;

determining that a patient associated with the medical test result is permitted direct access to medical test results by comparing patient information associated with the medical test result that identifies the patient against a list of patients permitted to receive medical test results;

prior to interpreting the medical test result to provide a plain language explanation for the medical test result, making a threshold determination whether ~~determining~~ if the medical test result will initially be automatically interpreted by the computer system independent of clinician input or ~~if~~ the medical test result will be interpreted using clinician input without an initial automatic interpretation by the computer system;

if the medical test result will initially be automatically interpreted independent of clinician input;[[,]]

automatically identifying at least one template associated with the type of medical test;[[;]]

automatically selecting a template matching the medical test result;[[;]] and

outputting a plain language explanation for the medical test result based on the selected template; and[[.]]

if the medical test result will be interpreted using clinician input without an initial automatic interpretation by the computer system:

distributing the medical test result to the clinician,
receiving clinician input matching the medical test result to a
template, and
outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected
template.

42. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein identifying at least one template associated with the type of medical test comprises identifying a set of a plurality of templates associated with the type of medical test.

43. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 42, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a range of medical test result values.

44. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 43, wherein the selecting step includes determining a template corresponding to the range encompassing the medical test result.

45. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 42, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a medical test value.

46. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the selecting step includes identifying the template corresponding to the medical test result value.

47. (canceled)

48. (canceled)

49. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 48, further comprising the step of recording the input of the clinician.

50. (canceled)

51. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the selected template includes at least one placeholder.

52. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 51, further comprising the step of inserting data into the selected template at the placeholder.

53. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 52, wherein the data is a numerical value for the medical test result.

54. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising the step of determining whether the selected template can be sent directly to a patient.

55. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the outputting includes sending a message to a storage unit and adapting the selected template for viewing via a web browser.

56. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is textual.

57. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is audible.

58. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 57, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by an automated phone system.

59. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 57, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by a wireless device.

60. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein if the medical test result will initially be automatically interpreted independent of clinician input, the method further comprises ~~comprising~~ the step of distributing the medical test result[[s]] and the selected template to a physician for review prior to the step of outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.